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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8370

INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA//

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5//

RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

RHMFIASS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE

RHMFIASS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RHMFIASS/425ABG IZMIR TU//CC//

RHMFIASS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU

RUEPGAB/MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IZ

UNCLAS ANKARA 000007

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER PREL PGOV TU IZ

SUBJECT: Update on PKK Violence (December 24-31, 2008)

REF: ANKARA 000006 and previous

(U) Sensitive but unclassified - please protect accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) This is another in a series of weekly reports on PKK violence in Turkey. Our primary source is the Turkish General Staff (TGS) website, which documents contacts and clashes with the PKK, as well as casualties incurred.

¶2. (U) During the December 24-31, 2008 reporting period, three security officials were killed and another nine were injured during a PKK ambush in Cizre, Sirnak Province on December 24. The total number of security force casualties in 2008 was 143 killed and 256 injured.

¶3. (U) During the same period, no PKK terrorist was killed in clashes. Four PKKers surrendered, including three in Silopi, Sirnak Province on December 28, and one in Reyhanli, Hatay Province on December 30. According to official TGS website figures, the number of PKK militants killed in 2008 was 657, the number of those captured was 165, and the number of those who surrendered was 170.

¶4. (U) During the reporting period no civilian casualties were incurred in PKK-linked violence. The total number of civilian casualties for 2008 was 49 killed, with another 252 wounded.

JEFFREY